

Supporting Information

Liu et al. 10.1073/pnas.1103016108

SI Discussion

With the development of the free fatty acids (FFA)-secretion strains, we found that an FFA strain cannot keep secreting forever, and that the secretion efficiency dropped when the culture became very old (after 1 mo). A significant amount of biomass was left after production. To make use of the spent biomass, we decided to utilize lipolytic enzymes to hydrolyze the membrane lipids (diacylglycerol) into FFAs. For controlling the lipolytic genes, we considered metal inducible promoters, high light inducible promoters, heat shock inducible promoters, stationary growth phase inducible promoters, Fe-starvation-inducible promoters, N-starvation-inducible promoters, CO₂-enhancement-inducible promoters, and CO₂-limitation-inducible promoters. We decided to use the CO₂-limitation to induce the lipolytic enzymes because we consider it economic (without adding anything) and sensitive (CO₂ depleted in 15 min after stopping bubbling) for cyanobacterial culture grown in a photobioreactor.

To test the feasibility of this idea, we constructed two testing strains SD236 [$\Delta nrsBAC::P_{nrsB}$ *fol* ribosome binding site (RBS) *shl*] and SD237 ($P_{cmp}::fol$ RBS *shl*). In SD236, two lipolytic genes were controlled by the proven nickel inducible control system to

test the performance of lipolytic enzymes in cyanobacteria. Fortunately, the first Green Recovery strain SD237 worked (autolyzed) with CO₂ limitation. After the pilot strains, we made the second batch strains containing individual lipolytic genes (SD252, SD256, SD257, and SD258) to evaluate the independent performance of the lipolytic enzymes for Green Recovery. In the process of construction, we found the double cross-over efficiency of the P_{sbt} site is much lower than that of the P_{cmp} site, thus making the screening SD252 (P_{sbt} *gpl*) much harder than the other strains with insertion at the P_{cmp} site. We also combined the Green Recovery modifications with an FFA-secretion strain SD232 to make the third batch strains SD239 and SD262. Results showed that the self-destruction rate of Green Recovery was faster in the FFA-secretion background strains than the wild-type background strains.

Green Recovery is able to release other biofuel molecules retained inside the cells, such as triacylglycerols, alkanes, and fatty acyl esters (biodiesel). We believe the technique will significantly reduce the microalgal biofuel production cost, if Green Recovery is introduced into algae.

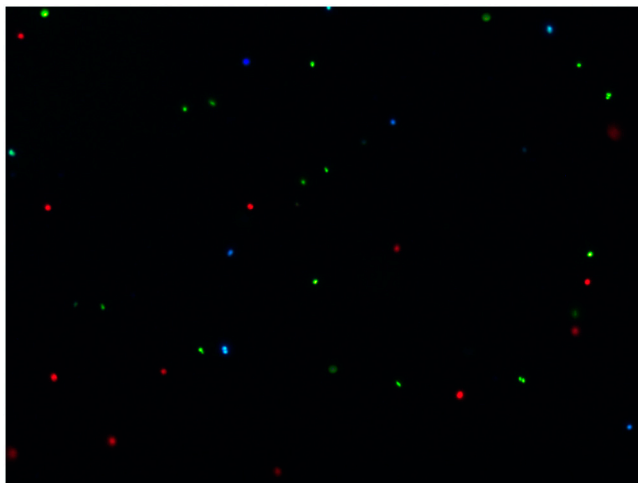


Fig. S1. One fluorescence microscopy picture of a SYTOX green stained SD256 culture 2 d after CO₂ limitation. Under fluorescence microscopy with 460–490 nm excitation, cells in a 6803 culture usually have three colors. Red cells are counted as membrane intact cells, where red is the autofluorescence of cyanobacterial phycobilisomes. Green cells are counted as membrane damaged cells, where green is the fluorescence of SYTOX green penetrating inside the cells and binding with DNA. Blue cells are also counted as damaged cells, which could be ghost cells with DNA and pigments already leaked out. For each 6803 sample, at least 200 cells were counted and analyzed for membrane permeability.

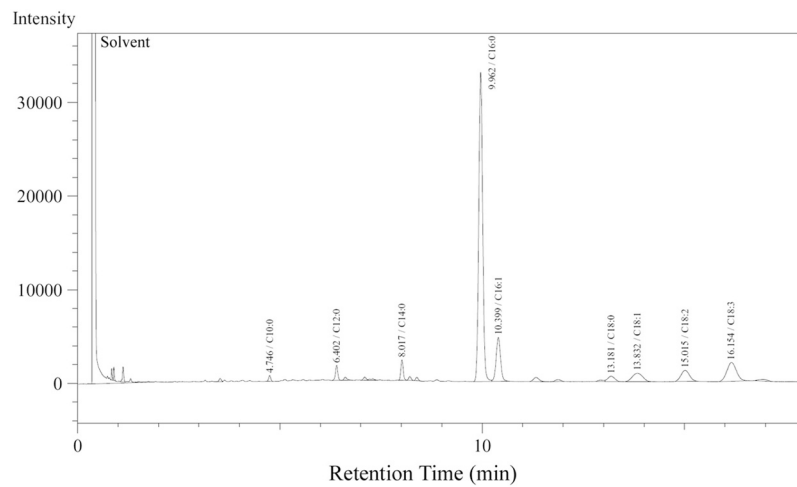


Fig. S6. The GC analysis of the FFA samples extracted by hexane from the SD237 culture after CO₂ limitation. The retention time and the types of released FFAs are marked on the peaks.

Table S1. SD strains constructed for this study

SD No.	Genotype *	Construction	Remarks
SD100	<i>Synechocystis</i> sp. PCC6803 wild-type		from Dr. Wim Vermaas's lab, School of Life Science, Arizona State University
SD200	$\Delta lipA::Km^R sacB$	transform SD100 with p Ψ 200 ($\Delta sll1969::Km^R sacB$) and select for kanamycin resistance	deletion of a putative 6803 lipase gene <i>sll1969</i> ; from 908392 to 908941 in the chromosome (Cyanobase)
SD232	$\Delta slr1609::P_{psbA2} 'tesA$ $\Delta (slr1993-slr1994)::P_{cpc} accBC P_{rbc} accDA$ $\Delta sll1951::*P_{psbA2} Uc fatB1$ $P_{rbc} Ch fatB2$	constructed in previous research	third generation constitutive FFA-secreting strain; plant (<i>Umbellularia californica</i> and <i>Cuphea hookeriana</i>) and <i>Escherichia coli</i> thioesterases and ACC were overproduced, and an acyl-ACP synthetase gene, PHB synthesis genes, and a surface layer gene were deleted in SD100
SD234	$P_{cmp}::Km^R sacB$	transform SD100 with p Ψ 234 ($P_{cmp}::Km^R sacB$) and select for kanamycin resistance	intermediate strain for inserting genes under the control of P_{cmp} on the basis of SD100
SD235	$\Delta slr1609::P_{psbA2} 'tesA$ $\Delta (slr1993-slr1994)::P_{cpc} accBC P_{rbc} accDA$ $\Delta sll1951::*P_{psbA2} Uc fatB1$ $P_{rbc} Ch fatB2$ $P_{cmp}::Km^R sacB$	transform SD232 with p Ψ 234 ($P_{cmp}::Km^R sacB$) and select for kanamycin resistance	intermediate strain for inserting genes under the control of P_{cmp} on the basis of SD232
SD237	$P_{cmp}::fol RBS shl$	transform SD234 with p Ψ 237 ($P_{cmp}::fol RBS shl$) and select for sucrose survival	Green Recovery strain with <i>fol</i> and <i>shl</i> controlled by P_{cmp}
SD239	$\Delta slr1609::P_{psbA2} 'tesA$ $\Delta (slr1993-slr1994)::P_{cpc} accBC P_{rbc} accDA$ $\Delta sll1951::*P_{psbA2} Uc fatB1$ $P_{rbc} Ch fatB2$ $P_{cmp}::fol RBS shl$	transform SD235 with p Ψ 237 ($P_{cmp}::fol RBS shl$) and select for sucrose survival	combination of SD232 and SD237, a FFA-secretion plus Green Recovery strain
SD244	$P_{sbt}::Km^R sacB$	transform SD100 with p Ψ 244 ($P_{sbt}::Km^R sacB$) and select for kanamycin resistance	intermediate strain for inserting genes under the control of P_{sbt} on the basis of SD100
SD245	$P_{cmp}::fol RBS shl P_{sbt}::Km^R sacB$	transform SD237 with p Ψ 244 ($P_{sbt}::Km^R sacB$) and select for kanamycin resistance	intermediate strain for inserting genes under the control of P_{sbt} on the basis of SD237
SD246	$\Delta slr1609::P_{psbA2} 'tesA$ $\Delta (slr1993-slr1994)::P_{cpc} accBC P_{rbc} accDA$ $\Delta sll1951::*P_{psbA2} Uc fatB1$ $P_{rbc} Ch fatB2$ $P_{cmp}::fol RBS shl$ $P_{sbt}::Km^R sacB$	transform SD239 with p Ψ 244 ($P_{sbt}::Km^R sacB$) and select for kanamycin resistance	intermediate strain for inserting genes under the control of P_{sbt} on the basis of SD239
SD252	$P_{sbt}::gpl$	transform SD244 with p Ψ 252 ($P_{sbt}::gpl$) and select for sucrose survival	Green Recovery strain with <i>gpl</i> controlled by P_{sbt}
SD253	$P_{cmp}::fol RBS shl P_{sbt}::gpl$	transform SD245 with p Ψ 252 ($P_{sbt}::gpl$) and select for sucrose survival	combination of SD237 and SD252, with 3 lipolytic genes
SD254	$\Delta slr1609::P_{psbA2} 'tesA$ $\Delta (slr1993-slr1994)::P_{cpc} accBC P_{rbc} accDA$ $\Delta sll1951::*P_{psbA2} Uc fatB1$ $P_{rbc} Ch fatB2$ $P_{cmp}::fol RBS shl$ $P_{sbt}::gpl$	transform SD246 with p Ψ 252 ($P_{sbt}::gpl$) and select for sucrose survival	combination of SD232, SD237 and SD252, with 3 lipolytic genes and FFA-secretion
SD256	$P_{cmp}::fol$	transform SD234 with p Ψ 256 ($P_{cmp}::fol$) and select for sucrose survival	Green Recovery strain with individual lipolytic enzyme <i>Fol</i>
SD257	$P_{cmp}::shl$	transform SD234 with p Ψ 257 ($P_{cmp}::shl$) and select for sucrose survival	Green Recovery strain with individual lipolytic enzyme <i>Shl</i>

SD No.	Genotype *	Construction	Remarks
SD258	$P_{cmp}::gpl$	transform SD234 with pΨ258 ($P_{cmp}::gpl$) and select for sucrose survival	Green Recovery strain with individual lipolytic enzyme Gpl
SD262	$\Delta slr1609::P_{psbA2}$ $\Delta tesA$ $\Delta (slr1993-slr1994)::P_{cpc}$ $accBC P_{rbc} accDA$ $\Delta sll1951::*P_{psbA2}$ $Uc fatB1$ P_{rbc} $Ch fatB2$ $P_{cmp}::fol$ $RBS shl$ $P_{sbt}::gpl$ $RBS 13 19 15$	transform SD246 with pΨ262 ($P_{sbt}::gpl$ $RBS 13 19 15$) and select for sucrose survival	on the basis of SD254, the <i>Salmonella</i> phage P22 lysis cassette 13 19 15 was added under the control of P_{sbt}

*Genetic information: *lipA* (*sll1969*), a putative lipase gene in 6803 chromosome; *sacB*, *sacB* gene, which is lethal for cyanobacteria in the presence of sucrose; Km^R , kanamycin resistance cassette; *slr1609*, the 6803 fatty acid activation gene, encoding an acyl–acyl carrier protein synthetase (1); P_{psbA2} , the promoter of 6803 *psbA2* gene, a 6803 strong promoter (2); *tesA*, an *E. coli* thioesterase gene without the export signal sequence (3); *slr1993* and *slr1994*, two poly-3-hydroxybutyrate (PHB) synthesis genes; P_{cpc} , the promoter of 6803 *cpc* operon (4); P_{rbc} , the promoter of 6803 *rbc* operon (5); *accB*, *accC*, *accD*, and *accA*, four genes coding for 6803 acetyl-CoA carboxylase (ACC) subunits (6); *sll1951*, encoding a hemolysin-like protein, which is a 6803 surface structural protein (7); $*P_{psbA2}$, an improved promoter from P_{psbA2} ; *Uc fatB1*, a thioesterase (TE) gene from *Umbellularia californica* (8); *Ch fatB2*, a TE gene from *Cuphea hookeriana* (9); P_{cmp} , the promoter of 6803 *cmp* operon; *fol*, a synthesized gene based on the amino acid sequence of the fungal phospholipase from *Fusarium oxysporum* (Fol); *shl*, a synthesized gene based on the amino acid sequence of the lipase from *Staphylococcus hyicus* (Shl); *gpl*, a synthesized gene based on the amino acid sequence of guinea pig pancreatic lipase-related protein 2; P_{sbt} , the promoter of 6803 *sbtA* gene; 13 19 15, *Salmonella* phage P22 lysis cassette.

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Table S2. The recovered FFA fraction of total cellular fatty acids in Green Recovery

Green recovery strains	Initial density, 10 ⁸ cfu/mL	Total FA in cells,* mg/L	Recovered FFA, [†] mg/L	Recovery rate, %	Fatty acid left	
					in debris, [‡] mg/L	Debris leftover rate, %
SD256	4.05	47.2 ± 0.4	19.1 ± 4.1	40.4	13.4 ± 1.0	28
$P_{cmp47}::fol$	1.01	11.8 ± 0.1	3.2 ± 0.1	27.1	4.4 ± 0.2	37
SD237	3.65	42.1 ± 0.8	19.0 ± 3.0	45.2	7.8 ± 0.2	19
$P_{cmp43}::fol$ $RBS shl$	0.91	10.5 ± 0.2	3.6 ± 0.07	34	3.4 ± 0.8	32.4

*The total fatty acids in the cells (composed of membrane diacylglycerol lipids) were extracted by Folch method and transesterified into fatty acid methyl ester by methanolic HCl for GC measurement.

[†]The recovered FFA were extracted by hexane with acidification and also transesterified into fatty acid methyl ester for GC measurement.

[‡]The fatty acids left in the cell debris after hexane extraction were extracted by Folch method and transesterified into fatty acid methyl ester by methanolic HCl for GC measurement.

Table S3. Primers used in this study

Primer name	Sequence (5' to 3')
Construction of pΨ200	
LipA-S	TACCTGGGTTCAAGGGTTGTGAT
LipA-A	CAAGCTTGTGCAACAGTCGGAA
Construction of pΨ234	
cmpR-s	TCT GGT TCC AGA GCC TGA TTC CCT CAT AAT CAA G
cmpA-a	ATC CGC TCG AAT GGC GAG GTA CTC TT
cmpR-a	TTC TAT GAA AAA AGG CAG ACA GAA AAA TTA AAT AAG CGC CA
cmpA-S	GAA AAA ATC AAT CAA AGT TAT GGG TTC ATT CAA TCG ACG
Construction of pΨ237, pΨ256, and pΨ257	
Fol-s	TTG AGG AGG TGT GAT GGA AGT ATC CCA AGA TCT GTT TAA T
Fol-a	CTT CAT TGA ATT AAT CTC CTC ATT AAC TGA AAC CGC CGG CGT TA
Shl-s	CAG TTA ATG AGG AGA TTA ATT CAA TGA AGC CTA CCG TTA AAG CTG
Shl-a	TCG ATA TCA TTA GGC GTT TTT GGT AGA TTC GGC TTT TTC G
Construction of pΨ244	
S8F1-S	GGT TCG ACA AAT TTG AGA TAG TTT TGT GGC AAA G
S8F1-A	T GTA AAT TGT CTC CTT GGT TGA AAT TTA TGG GGA
S8F2-S	AGG AGA ACA TTA TGG ATT TTT TGT CCA ATT TCT TGA CG
S8F2-A	CCA TAA TCA GCA TCA AGA TGG AAA GTA GTC CTC G
Construction of pΨ252 and pΨ258	
GPLRP2-S	TAT GAA ATT GTT TGC CTG GAC TAT TGG TTT ACT GCT G
GPLRP2-A	TTT AGC AGG GGC TCA GAG TCT GCT CGA CGT T
Construction of pΨ262	
P2213-S	AGG AGG ATA TAA TGC CAG AAA AAC ATG ATC TGT TAA CCG
P2215-A	aTTA TTT TAA GCA CTG ACT CCT GAT GTA CTC CTG CAG
GPL-END-FOR	AAG ACG GGA CCA AAT ATA ACT TCT GCT CCA GCG AT
P2213-BACK	ATG CCC TGT TCC TTT GCC GCC ATC ATG
Segregation checking/sequencing	
S6-66S	TTT ACC TAG CCT AGG AGC CCC AGT G
S6-99A	GCA CAA CCC TTC AGA AAT AAA GCC CCT
S8-90S	CTG GAA AGA TCA AGC AAA CTG CCG AAG ATT CA
S8-60A	ACT GCA ATT GTC CCA CGA AGT CCG TCA A

GPLRP, guinea pig pancreatic lipase-related protein 2.

